

REMARKS

Claims 26-41 were pending in subject application. Claims 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 26, 39 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claims 27-29, 32-38 and 41 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, without agreeing with the Examiner's position as to the non-allowed claims, these claims have been canceled from the application, without prejudice to the subject matter thereof being presented in one or more continuation applications. Claims 27, 28, 29, 32, 37, 38 and 41 have been amended to independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 33-36 depend from claim 32. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the rejections, and a Notice of Allowance for the application are respectfully requested. A supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted concurrently for the Examiner's review.

U.S. Application No.: 09/876,830
Amendment dated March 26, 2003
Reply to Office Action of January 15, 2003

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090. Should any issue require attention prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 622-4900 to resolve the matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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